

## RECOMMENDATION

RE: REPORT OF SOUTHERN GROWTH POLICIES BOARD, "HALFWAY HOME AND A LONG WAY TO GO"

### Background

In November 1986, the Southern Growth Policies Board adopted the report of the Commission on the Future of the South, an economic development blueprint for southern states. The report culminated a year of work by a distinguished panel of twenty southern leaders assembled by the Board's chairman, Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas. The report contains ten regional objectives for the South to work for between 1986 and 1992, at which time the next Commission on the Future of the South will be assembled to examine the condition of the region and to set new objectives.

"Halfway Home and a Long Way to Go" has been hailed as one of the most beautifully written and compelling public policy documents ever issued. It was deliberately made accessible to southerners and kept short -- only 23 pages long. Over 15,000 copies have been distributed and hundreds of speeches made by Board and Commission members and others. The central theme of Governor Collins' chairmanship of the Board has been to market, follow-up, and implement the report to make it a regional agenda for action. She addressed a joint session of the North Carolina General Assembly on the report. At its annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, August 30 - September 1, the Board will issue a state-by-state summary of gubernatorial and legislative actions relating to the report. Press coverage and reaction have been excellent both regionally and nationally.

Since legislative involvement is key to implementing the ten regional objectives contained in "Halfway Home and Long Way to Go", the Southern Legislative Conference calls upon its member states to do the following:

### Recommendation

1. have a joint session at which either former Governor William Winter (Chairman of the Commission), Governor Clinton, Governor Collins, Governor Baliles (Chairman-Elect of the Southern Growth Policies Board), or another member of the Board or Commission address the ten regional objectives;
2. distribute copies of the report to all legislators who have not seen it;
3. appoint a joint committee to examine how "Halfway Home and a Long Way to Go" applies to that particular state, and propose legislative action;
4. have legislative staff prepare an annual report to the Southern Legislative Conference and the Southern Growth Policies Board on actions relating to the ten regional objectives and to discuss these reports at the annual meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference.